

PATENT

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at p. 10, lines 16-19 with the following paragraph:

NE
--The time for the heat treatment can also be determined by trial and error. Generally, the lower the temperature for the heat treatment, the longer the time should be. In all cases however we favour carrying out the heat treatment for at least 4 hours, preferably for at least 12 hours, more preferably for at least 24 hours and most preferably for at least 48 hours.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claim 7.

Please amend the claims as follows:

Ex
Sub
B2
1. (Amended) A method of providing a precursor which comprises an imagable coating on a substrate, the coating comprising a polymeric composition, wherein the method includes a heat treatment step applied to the precursor, the heat treatment step taking place under conditions which inhibit the removal of moisture from the precursor during the heat treatment, wherein the precursor is held at an elevated temperature for at least 12 hours in the heat treatment.

Ex
Sub
B3
9. (Amended) A method of providing a precursor which comprises an imagable coating on a substrate, the coating comprising a polymeric composition, wherein the method includes a heat treatment step applied to the precursor, the heat treatment step taking place under

PATENT

A²
B³
could

conditions which inhibit the removal of moisture from the precursor during the heat treatment, wherein the method is applied to a precursor coil.

10. (Amended) A method of providing a precursor which comprises an imagable coating on a substrate, the coating comprising a polymeric composition, wherein the method includes a heat treatment step applied to the precursor, the heat treatment step taking place under conditions which inhibit the removal of moisture from the precursor during the heat treatment, wherein the method is applied to a precursor coil, wherein the coil comprises spirals that are separated by an intervening material. pg 12

A³
Sub
C7

16. (Amended) A method of providing a precursor which comprises an imagable coating on a substrate, the coating comprising a positive working polymeric composition, wherein the method includes a heat treatment step applied to the precursor, the heat treatment step being carried out in an oven which provides an atmosphere whose relative humidity is at least 25%, wherein the precursor is held at an elevated temperature for at least 12 hours in the heat treatment. 283

17. (Amended) A method of providing a precursor which comprises an imagable coating on a substrate, the coating comprising a positive working polymeric composition, wherein the method includes a heat treatment step applied to the precursor, the heat treatment step being carried out in an oven which provides an atmosphere whose absolute humidity is at

PATENT

C 7 d
AB least 0.028, wherein the precursor is held at an elevated temperature for at least 12 hours in the
heat treatment. *py⁸*
